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Monday, February 25, 2019 metro.us | t:MetroPhilly | f:MetroPhilly

ISTOCK

WHAT A NIGHT

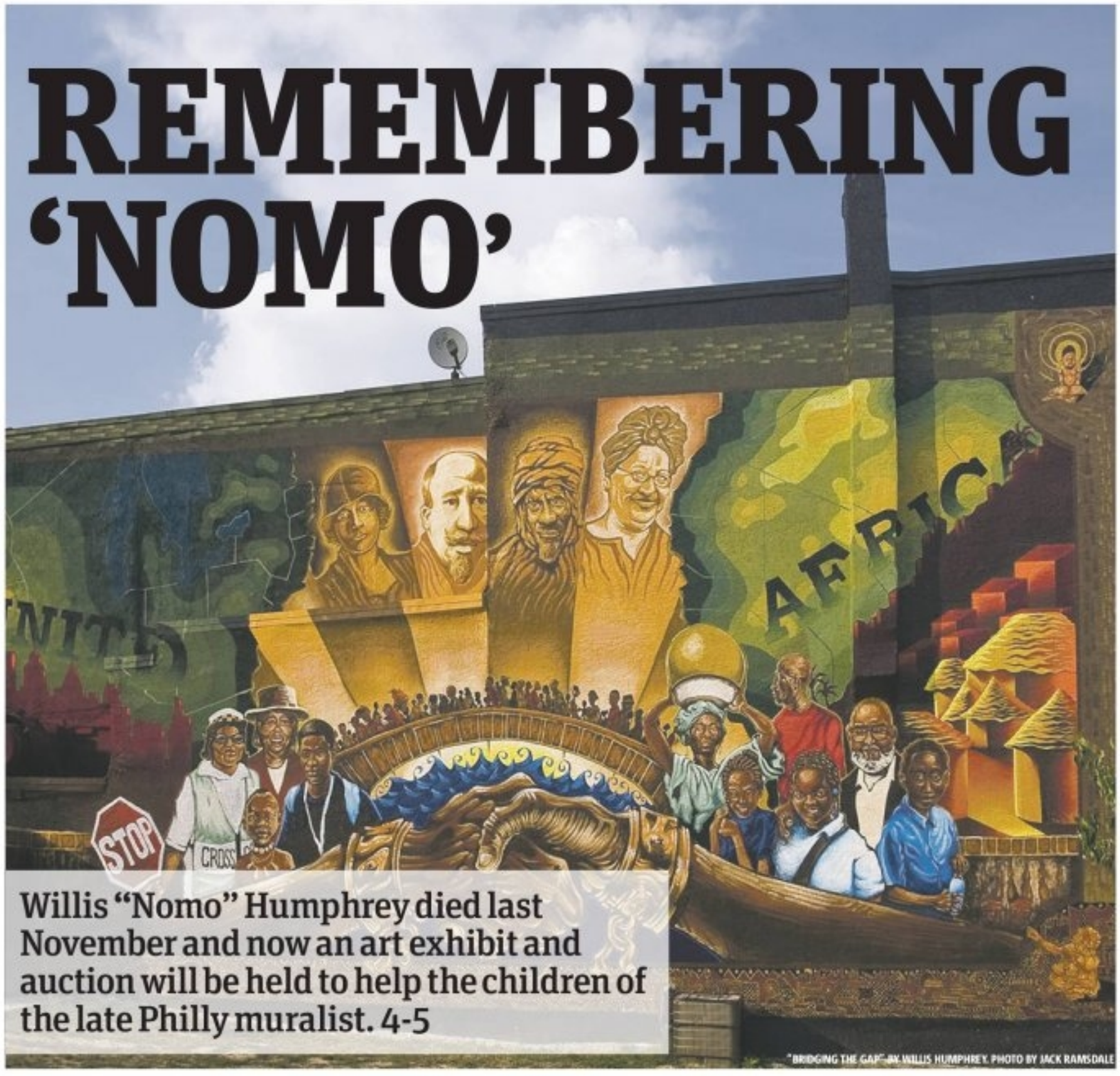
All the can't-miss moments from the 2019 Oscars. 12-13

Ray Romano takes it slow with 'Paddleton.' 11

metro BET

Sixers–Pelicans tip off tonight. 18-19

REMEMBERING 'NOMO'



Willis "Nomo" Humphrey died last November and now an art exhibit and auction will be held to help the children of the late Philly muralist. 4-5

"BRIDGING THE GAP" BY WILLIS HUMPHREY. PHOTO BY JACK RAMSDALE

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MICHAEL BUTLER, REPORTER

Carl Willis "Nomo" Humphrey was as well-known for his polished skills as an artist as he was for passion in advocating for community rights. In a city known internationally for its lush, sprawling murals, Humphrey's paintings of civil rights icons like Octavius Catto are highly regarded. In the aftermath of Humphrey's unexpected death at the age of 44 last November, the local arts community is organizing a two-day art exhibition and silent auction to benefit his three children. Keir Johnston, a longtime friend and collaborator of Humphrey, talks about Humphrey's lasting legacy on **pages 4-5** and on **metro.us.**

Vietnam prepares for Trump–Kim summit

1 Dozens of North Korean security men with identical haircuts and suits marched off an aircraft at Hanoi airport on Sunday, as Vietnamese soldiers searched through shrubbery outside a posh hotel in the city center days before a North Korea–U.S. summit. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump will meet in Hanoi on Wednesday and Thursday, hoping to build on a commitment they made at their first meeting, in Singapore in June, to rid the Korean peninsula of nuclear bombs. They are expected to meet for their second summit in Hanoi's Government Guesthouse, an elegant, colonial-era building in the city center, or at the nearby Metropole Hotel, sources have told Reuters. Vietnam has confirmed that Kim will arrive for an official goodwill visit as well as the summit with Trump, but has released no further details regarding meeting locations.

Dems will subpoena Russia report if needed: Schiff

2 Democrats will subpoena Special Counsel Robert Mueller's final report on his investigation into links between President Donald Trump's 2016 election team and Russia if it is not given to Congress, Adam Schiff said on Sunday. Schiff, a Democrat who chairs the House Intelligence Committee, said Democrats will also sue the government and call on Mueller to testify to Congress if necessary. "We will obviously subpoena the report. We will bring Bob Mueller in to testify before Congress; we will take it to court if necessary. And in the end, I think the [Justice] Department understands they're going to have to make this public," Schiff said on ABC's "This Week." Amid reports that Mueller could be near concluding a 21-month investigation into whether Trump's campaign team colluded with Russian efforts to influence the 2016 election, Democrats are pushing for it to be made public.

The 91st Annual Academy Awards

3 Maya Rudolph, Tina Fey and Amy Poehler kicked off the hostless Academy Awards at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, California, on Sunday. ***Read more Oscars coverage on Pages 12-13.***

GETTY IMAGES

Calif. man who spent 39 years in prison gets $21M

4 A California man who was wrongfully convicted for killing an ex-girlfriend and her son four decades ago has reached a $21 million settlement with the city of Simi Valley, officials said. Craig Coley, 71, was sentenced to life in prison without parole for the 1978 murder of his former partner, Rhonda Wicht, and her 4-year-old son, Donald, at their apartment. He had always maintained his innocence, and was pardoned in 2017 by California's then-governor, Jerry Brown, based on exculpatory DNA evidence found by investigators. "While no amount of money can make up for what happened to Mr. Coley, settling this case is the right thing to do for Mr. Coley and our community," Simi Valley City Manager Eric Levitt said on Saturday in a statement. The 39 years Coley spent behind bars was the longest prison term ever overturned in California, the statement said.

Boeheim: Death will weigh on him for 'rest of my life'

5 Syracuse head coach Jim Boeheim said his involvement in an accident that left a man dead on Wednesday "will be with me for the rest of my life" after coaching in the Orange's loss to Duke on Saturday night. After Syracuse defeated Louisville on Wednesday, Boeheim was driving home from a restaurant on Interstate 690 when he struck and killed 51-year-old Jorge Jimenez. A passenger in a vehicle that was involved in its own accident, Jimenez had exited that car before he was struck. Law enforcement has said Boeheim was not at fault. After Saturday's game, Boeheim made a statement addressing the Jimenez family directly. "First and foremost, to the Jimenez family, I want them to know how truly devastated I am for my involvement in the loss of their loved one, Jorge Jimenez. The grief and pain his family is feeling at this time is, simply put, unimaginable."

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In Pennsylvania, property owners are responsible for injuries when they allow snow and ice to accumulate. If slippery conditions were caused by melting and re-freezing snow or ice, the property owner may be responsible.

If you fall on snow or ice, it is critical to capture evidence of the condition of the area. It is also important to document how long before your accident the snow or ice began falling. This information will be essential in proving your case and getting you the fair compensation you deserve.

As the weather gets colder and the snow starts to fall, be careful as you walk. If you fall on snow or ice, make sure to gather the evidence!

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"Staircases and Mountaintops: Ascending Beyond the Dream" section by Willis "Nomo" Humphrey. ALL SEVE WEINIK IMAGES

Art show to benefit family of muralist Willis 'Nomo' Humphrey

An art exhibit and silent auction will raise money for the family of the late Philly muralist.

MICHAEL BUTLER
letters@metro.us

Three months after his sudden passing, an exhibition and art auction will be held to benefit the family of the late muralist and visual artist Carl Willis "Nomo" Humphrey on March 1-2 at Icebox Project Space in the Crane Arts Building.

Humphrey was a native of Biloxi, Mississippi, and honed his art skills studying graphic design at the Art Institute of Atlanta. Humphrey would later learn of the arts organization Mural Arts of Philadelphia after moving to the city, and eventually became a staff artist.

Humphrey quickly gained recognition for his vivid murals of Philadelphia civil rights figures like Civil War-era activist Octavius V. Catto. His sudden death in November from a heart attack, at age 44, shocked Philly's arts community.

Keir Johnston, who worked to organize the benefit auction, is an artist who fondly remembers Humphrey and worked closely with him as a part of the Amber Art and Design Collective. "[Humphrey] was just an amazing human being and person to be around," Johnston said. "He was relentless in his pursuit of his work and other varying social causes."

In addition to gifts as an artist, Humphrey had a passion for supporting

"Remembering a Forgotten Hero," by Willis "Nomo" Humphrey and Keir Johnston.

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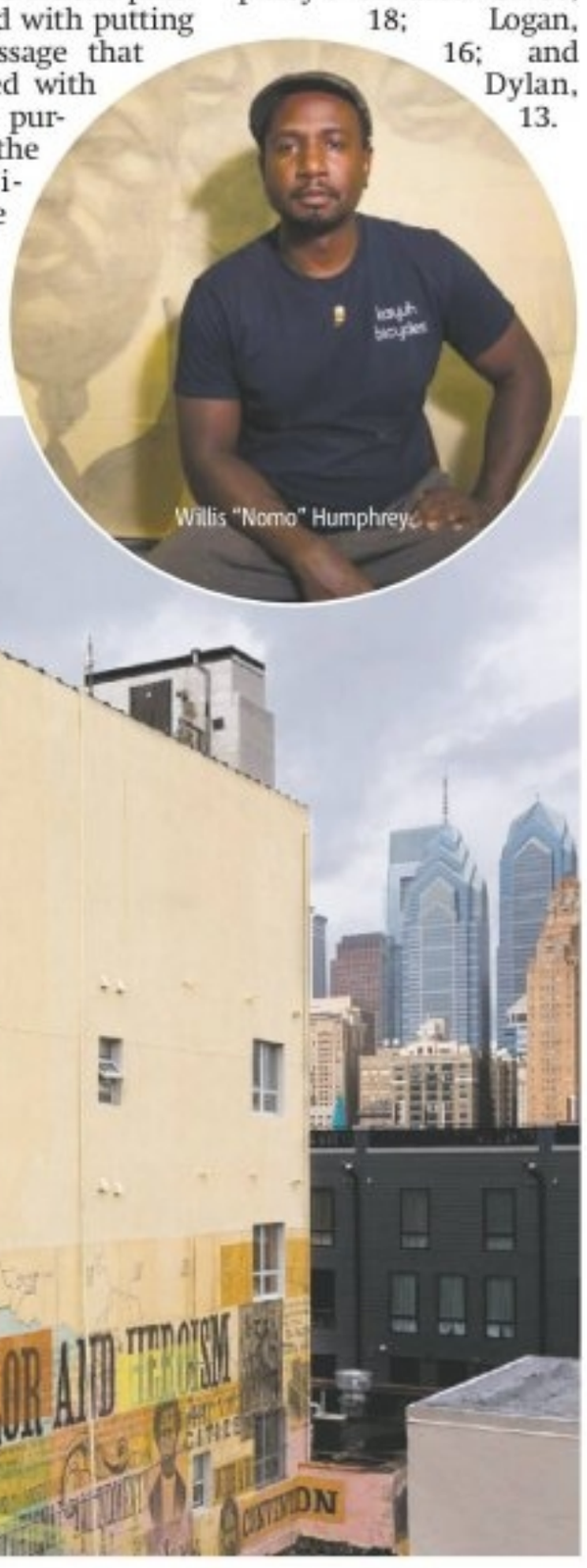
community engagement and often spoke up about issues affecting the black community. As a founding member of Amber Art and Design Collective, an organization that uses art to help create positive social change, Humphrey found a way to combine his love of art and social justice.

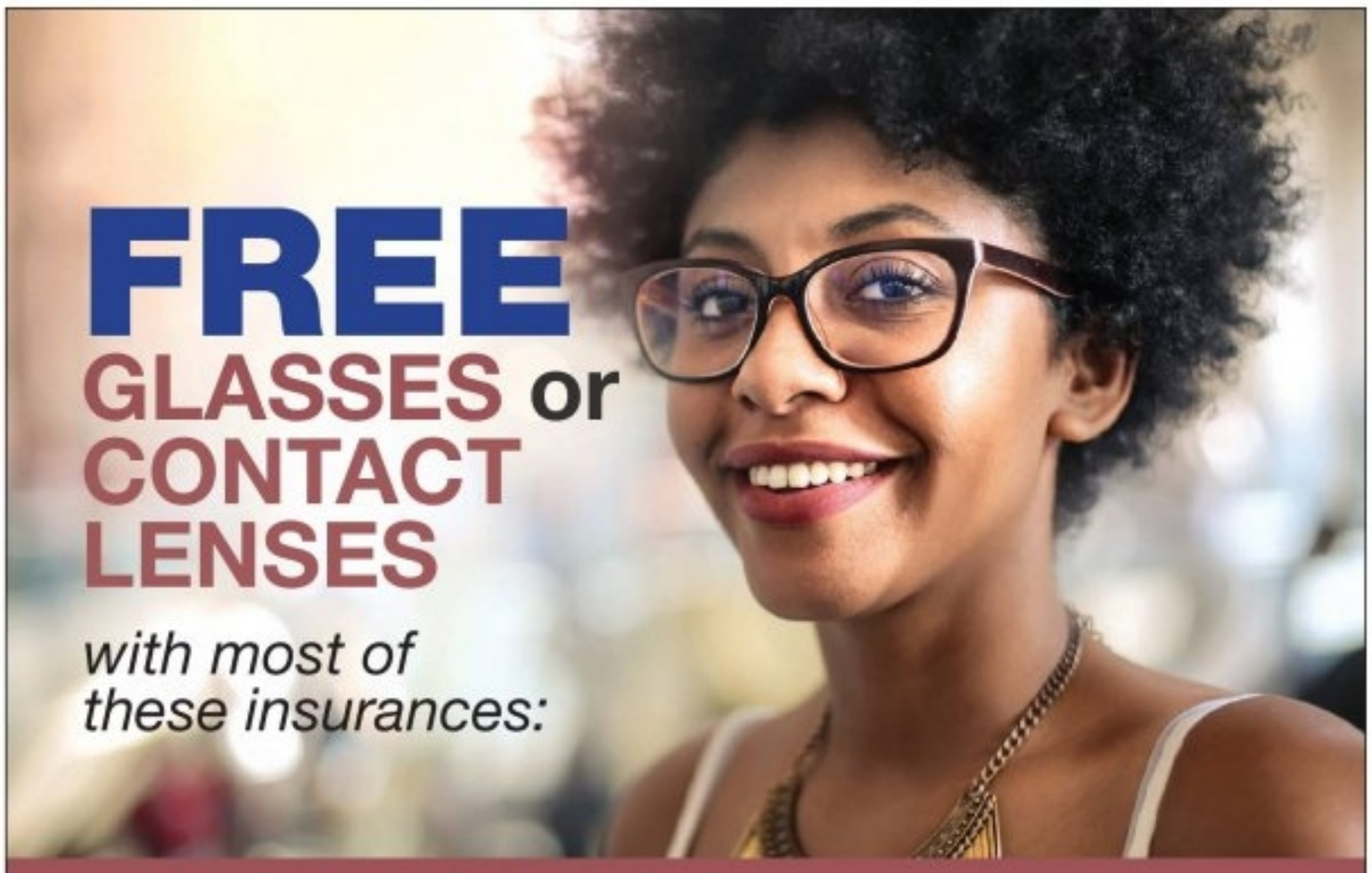
Johnston noted that Humphrey's acclaimed talents as a painter and graphic designer were rivaled only by his love for his children and community. "I watched him as a single father raise three kids tirelessly and work to support his family first and foremost," Johnston said. "He looked to educate and inspire others. He sacrificed a lot of himself to make sure his people were taken care of and that his artistic practice aligned with putting out a message that was infused with the social pursuits of the communities [he served]."

Johnston wanted to make sure an event paying tribute to Humphrey was one that he would have wanted to attend. "This show will show, to a small degree, his impact with the number of artists putting forward work to benefit his children," Johnston said. "We wanted to have an extra event to celebrate the way Willis would have appreciated and taken part in. He loved multimedia events with a sharing and nurturing environment."

"We wanted to have an extra event to celebrate the way Willis would have appreciated and taken part in. He loved multimedia events with a sharing and nurturing environment."
Keir Johnston

The opening reception for Humphrey's benefit exhibition and art auction will be Friday, March 1, from 6-9 p.m. The exhibit and silent auction will remain on view Saturday, March 2, from noon to 5 p.m. All proceeds will go to college funds for Humphrey's children Chloe, 18; Logan, 16; and Dylan, 13.


Willis "Nomo" Humphrey



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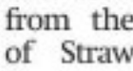
A SEPTA bus gears up to ride on the brand-new Route 49, which debuted its north-south route on Sunday.

COURTESY OF SEPTA

SEPTA's new Route 49 bus links North, South Philly

The newest route connects sections of the city previously not traversed by public transit.



SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

It's hard to get excited about SEPTA buses — except for when they're pulling up on time. But its newest bus route, the 49, is actually a development in the transit world that's got people talking.

That's because the Route 49 bus cuts a vertical north-south path through Center City West and University City that's unlike any other bus route, many of which wrap through Center City and, for segments at least, cover much of the same territory.

The maiden voyage of Route 49, which was scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 24, has the potential to be a game-changer for people who are accustomed to taking two buses, a bus and a train, or just not having a public transit options for getting to where they need to go.

One benefit is a new link connecting residents from the neighborhoods of Strawberry Mansion, Brewerytown and Fairmount directly to Southwest Philly and Grays Ferry via a route down the Parkway and through University City.

"The Route 49 [bus] will provide an important connection between these communities and the growing number of jobs and health resources in University City," SEPTA Board Chairman Pasquale T. Deon Sr. said in a statement.

Another benefit is a direct SEPTA route from 30th Street to the Parkway. The Route 49 bus will "create a direct transit option between 30th Street Station and the world-renowned cultural attractions located along the Ben Franklin Parkway," Deon said.

SEPTA is currently developing a Comprehensive Bus Network Redesign project and has been analyzing the strengths and weakness of its existing transit bus infrastructure, in an effort to potentially redesign the network to increase ridership and efficiency, while examining issues like possible service redundancies, connections between transit centers and Regional Rail, and the value of transfer fees.

While the Route 49 bus is not a direct outgrowth of that project, both relate to SEPTA's general goal to improve the bus ridership experience for its passengers, a spokesman said. The unique design of Route 49 was based on years of input from community groups and city officials, they said.

"The Route 49 [bus] will provide an important connection between these communities and the growing number of jobs and health resources in University City."
Pasquale T. Deon Sr.
SEPTA Board Chairman

This service addition follows another enhancement intended to make commuters' lives easier: the introduction on Roosevelt Boulevard of the Boulevard Direct, an express bus that makes only eight stops from Frankford Transportation Center to the Neshaminy Mall, the SEPTA spokesman said. The express bus takes 30 minutes to travel between the Boulevard's eight most popular stops, a trail that on the existing Route 14 bus makes 40 stops and takes closer to an hour.

For more information about the new Route 49 bus, visit SEPTA.org.

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R. Kelly bond on sexual assault charges set at $1M, due in court Monday

Grammy-winning singer R. Kelly, who has faced years of sexual abuse allegations, was ordered held on a $1 million bond on Saturday on charges that he sexually assaulted three teenagers and a woman, as prosecutors offered new details in the case.

In Cook County court, prosecutor Jennifer Gonzalez said Kelly met one of the teenaged victims during his trial on child pornography charges in 2008 when she sought his autograph after a day in court and repeatedly had sex with her between 2009 and 2010. (Kelly was acquitted of the child porn charges.)

He met another victim at her 16th birthday party, Gonzalez said, and had sex with her in the first of many encounters in 1998 after telling her to take a taxi from school to his recording studio. A third charge is based on a videotape that purportedly shows Kelly and a 14-year-old girl engaged in sexual acts sometime between 1998 and 2001.

The fourth victim was Kelly's hairdresser, then 24, who said Kelly tried to force her to have oral sex in 2003 before ejaculating on her shirt, according to prosecutors. DNA testing linked the sample to Kelly, prosecutors said.

Cook County Judge John Lyke, who called the allegations "disturbing," set bail at $1 million for Kelly. The singer appeared in a black hooded sweatshirt and looked down as prosecutors outlined the case against him. He was not asked to enter a plea at what was purely a bond hearing, although his lawyer Steven Greenberg has described Kelly as "an innocent man."

The 52-year-old R&B singer, whose real name is Robert Kelly, was charged with a 10-count indictment on Friday, nearly two months after the Lifetime television network aired a six-hour documentary series "Surviving R. Kelly" in which multiple women accuse him of sexual misconduct and abuse.

The judge also ordered Kelly not to have contact with anyone under the age of 18 and to surrender his passport. Each count carries a maximum of 10 years in prison.

Kelly is due back in court on Monday, when a trial judge is expected to be assigned, a spokesman for the Cook County Sheriff's Office said.

Greenberg told reporters that he expected his client to secure his release sometime over the weekend and described Kelly as "devastated," even as he also denied the charges.

"We haven't seen any evidence, any reason to believe these allegations are credible," Greenberg said. "He's a rock star. He doesn't need to have non-consensual sex."

The video in question was apparently obtained by lawyer Michael Avenatti, known for representing porn star Stormy Daniels in her legal battle against President Donald Trump. Avenatti said he represents two victims and turned the tape over to authorities.

Kelly, best known for his hit single "I Believe I Can Fly," has for years denied accusations of abuse.

In 1994, he married 15-year-old singer Aaliyah, a union that was annulled months later because of her age. Aaliyah died in a plane crash in 2001.

The 2008 child pornography case stemmed from a video purportedly showing Kelly having sex with an underage girl. A jury acquitted Kelly after concluding it could not be certain whether Kelly and the girl were the people shown in the video.

"Surviving R. Kelly" touched off a new controversy when it debuted in January, prompting his record label, Sony Music-owned RCA, to end its relationship with Kelly.

"We are proud that Lifetime was able to provide a platform for survivors to be heard," Lifetime said in a statement on Friday.

Kelly, a three-time Grammy winner whose hits also include "Bump N' Grind" and "Your Body's Callin," grew up in a Chicago public housing project where, according to his autobiography, he was sexually abused beginning at age 8. REUTERS

R. Kelly. GETTY IMAGES

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Police looking for South Philly serial sexual assault suspect

A suspect has been linked to several different reported sexual assaults occurring since December.

MICHAEL BUTLER
letters@metro.us

A suspect has been linked to several different reported sexual assaults occurring since December.

Philadelphia police are looking for a serial sexual assault suspect connected to six incidents involving women in South Philadelphia.

According to police reports, a single suspect has been linked to five attempted sexual assaults and one incident which might have been an attempted sexual assault in South Philadelphia between Dec. 20, 2018, and Feb. 21.

City Councilman Kenyatta Johnson, who presides over parts of Center City, South and Southwest Philadelphia, issued a statement about the recently reported sexual assault cases in his area:

"Women in South Philadelphia should not have to be stressed over their safety ... because a serial predator has not been caught."

Councilman Kenyatta Johnson

"Women in South Philadelphia should not have to be stressed over their safety when leaving or returning to their homes alone, and locking their doors in fear at night, because a serial predator has not been caught," Johnson said.

In five different incidents, victims described a black male wearing a hoodie and standing between 5 feet 6 inches to 5 feet 8 inches tall. Video and photos of the alleged sexual assaulter suggest that the same suspect is behind all of the incidents.

Johnson urged victims of sexual assault to reach out for help via Women Organized Against Rape (WOAR) or to call 911 in the event of an emergency.

"If you or someone

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Police are after a suspect behind a string of sexual assaults in South Philly. GOOGLE COMMONS

you know has been sexually assaulted, remember, you are not alone," Johnson said in his statement. "Women Organized Against Rape (WOAR), a Philadelphia nonprofit, has free counseling services available to everyone, adults and children, regardless of how much time has passed since the trauma. WOAR's 24/7 hotline number to help victims is 215-985-3333."

People with information on the suspect are recommended to not approach him and to call 911 immediately if they see him in person. Tips can be submitted via telephone at 215-686-TIPS (8477) and via a text to PPDTIP or 773847.

People with information on any of the reports or the suspect can also contact the Special Victims Unit at 215-685-3251/3252.

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OMG! Unbelievable... Who doesn't hear THEIR car alarm blaring ALL NIGHT long! For four-plus hours. I lost track of time once I got up to move into another room, away from the blaring NOISE, after trying to sleep through it for four hours! Just when you thought it had stopped, it would start again! Honk, honk, honk, honk, honk...pause. Honk, honk, honk, honk, honk... pause. And so on and so on... This thing literally kept the entire neighborhood awake for hours!

How DID YOU NOT hear it? Or maybe you did, but decided to do absolutely nothing about it! Next time, the police will be called or your battery will be disconnected (which, hopefully by now, is DEAD)!

— **Anonymous,** *Metro US reader*

GROSSED OUT BY GUM ON THE SIDEWALK

Why do people spit out their gum onto walkways? As if the chomping and snapping isn't bad enough, they choose to dispose of their chewie by spitting. It's just gross. Afterward, it morphs into a glob of brownish black. What a beguiling sidewalk mosaic these discarded pieces become.

— **Bernadette,** *Metro US reader*

VENT TO US!
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Aries Knowledge is power. Learn all you can before you get into a debate or try to prove a point. Consider the outcome before you pick a side. Don't share personal information.

Taurus Pick up the pace and finish what you start. How you go about helping others will determine your success. If someone tries to use you or take advantage of your hospitality, back away.

Gemini Know how much you want to contribute before you offer to help. Promising too much and falling short will put a dent in your reputation. Be precise and honor your pledge.

Cancer Step up to the podium and let others know what you are capable of doing and what you are willing to contribute. The people you encounter will enrich your life.

Leo Emotions will surface if you don't like what's going on at home or work. Look at the big picture and avoid negativity. Do what's best and right.

Virgo Participation will help you use pent-up energy constructively. Get out of the house, go to the gym or take part in whatever provides you a challenging and rewarding outlet.

Libra Learn as you go and bring about positive change that will encourage you to improve your life. Be willing to walk away from negativity, demanding people and bad relationships.

Scorpio Create your own destiny. Consider what you want to do and start the ball rolling. Be innovative and seek out those who share your opinions and desires.

Sagittarius Be careful whom you trust with personal information, secrets or your possessions. Lending and borrowing isn't a good idea. Someone will twist your words or misinform you.

Capricorn Try to find new ways to use your skills in ways that will improve your cash flow. Physical labor will encourage you to get in tip-top shape. Romance is on the rise.

Aquarius Listen, but don't share your opinion. The information you pick up will help you decipher who is worth spending time with and who isn't. A change will be financially beneficial.

Pisces Think about what you want to do and travel down the path that draws you. What you accomplish will make a difference to you and your loved ones. EUGENIA LAST

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Ray Romano goes 'slow' and 'intimate' with 'Paddleton'

The comedy legend talks about his new Netflix flick.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
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Ray Romano and Mark Duplass star in "Paddleton." PATRICK WYMORE / NETFLIX

Ray Romano's legacy as a comedian has long been secure. Mostly because of the monstrous success of "Everybody Loves Raymond," but also due to his stellar stand-up career.

Recently, however, Romano has proved remarkably adept in dramatic roles too, excelling in the Oscar-nominated "The Big Sick," very much holding his own against the always-extraordinary Holly Hunter. In fact, it was this performance that convinced indie producer and actor Mark Duplass that Romano was perfect for "Paddleton," which sees the pair star as Michael and Andy, respectively, two misfit neighbors that have to come to terms with the latter's cancer diagnosis.

"He [Duplass] was at the after-party," Romano tells Metro. "It was the first time we'd ever met. I guess he liked what he saw, because he said, 'You know, you and I, you would be good for this one project that I'm thinking of.' He didn't really tell me anything about it."

That's actually because there wasn't much to tell, as "Paddleton" didn't have a shooting script, only an outline.

"He said to me, 'We only do outlines and we improvise the scenes.' I mean, it was a pretty detailed outline. And I just liked the idea of it. The execution and the style of it scared me a little. But I was very intrigued. So I quickly decided to take this chance."

Romano even adjusted his own acting approach to merge with Duplass' style, which he calls "slow and subtle and intimate," as he just trusted his instincts to make sure the performance felt "more real."

"Normally in a scripted piece, when I do an emotional scene, I am in the corner, I put on my headphones, I need to listen to sad music. I need to get myself to that spot. But for this, I needed none of that. That was just the type of movie that it was. You know, you're living with a guy, you're creating his lines for 20 days in a row. You just put so much of your soul into this guy. So it just felt so real."

Considering that Romano and Duplass only met for the first time just a few months before filming, how did they create such an authentic friendship on-screen?

"We discussed who these guys were in great detail," says Romano. "We were still getting to know each other until we started filming. But everything felt right."

"Paddleton" is now on Netflix.

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5 Unforgettable moments from the 2019 Oscars

What a night.

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From fashion statements to rocking musical performances, the biggest night in Hollywood did not disappoint. While fans weren't sure what to expect from this year's hostless Academy Awards, the ceremony went off without a hitch despite the lack of an emcee. Here are five unforgettable moments from the 2019 Oscars.

Billy Porter shuts down the red carpet

Before the show even began, fashion lovers were treated to all sorts of amazing outfits on the red carpet. From Spike Lee's purple Prince tribute to Glenn Close's 42-pound golden gown, there were a ton of great looks to marvel at Sunday night. However, only one star deserves best dressed, and that award goes to Billy Porter. The "Pose" actor made quite the statement with his black velvet gown designed by Christian Siriano, which immediately took social media by storm. Keep slaying, Billy Porter, keep slaying.

Queen rocks us

Since the Freddie Mercury biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody" was up for a number of awards Sunday night, it was only right that the Oscars pay tribute to the iconic rocker. And that they did, with an amazing performance by Adam Lambert and Queen, who kicked off the ceremony with a stellar medley of "We Will Rock You" and "We Are the Champions." The mini concert gave the show a much-needed jolt of energy to start the evening.

No host, no problem

The 2019 Oscars didn't have an official host, but "Saturday Night Live" alums Tina Fey, Amy Poehler and Maya Rudolph made a good case for why they should get the nod for next year's show. The hilarious trio teamed up to announce the first award of the night, but before they presented the honor, the comedy legends brought the laughs with a series of jokes poking fun at the hostless show, as well as taking a slight jab at President Trump. "Just a quick update for everybody in case you're confused, there is no host tonight," Rudolph said. "There won't be a popular movie category and Mexico is not paying for the wall." After their hilarious bit, Fey, Poehler and Rudolph announced the winner for Outstanding Supporting Actress, which went to first-time Oscar winner Regina King for her role in "If Beale Street Could Talk."

Melissa McCarthy, Brian Tyree Henry turn heads

While Billy Porter was the clear best dressed winner, Melissa McCarthy and Brian Tyree Henry turned heads in their own way with their hilarious outfits while presenting the award for Achievement in Costume Design. McCarthy, who was nominated for Best Lead Actress for her role in "Can You Ever Forgive Me?", wore a stuffed bunny-adorned dress as she and Henry spoofed "The Favourite" with their get-ups. The duo ended up presenting

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Billy Porter slayed the red carpet. GETTY IMAGES

the award to costume designer Ruth Carter for her work on "Black Panther," the first of several wins for the film.

Keegan-Michael Key's grand entrance

Keegan-Michael Key entered the show in style. The comedian and actor popped into the ceremony from the rafters, holding an umbrella as he descended into the Oscars festivities. The grand entrance was fitting, as Key ended up introducing Bette Midler's performance of "The Place Where Lost Things Go" from "Mary Poppins Returns," which was nominated for Best Original Song.

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5 Fun things to do in Philly this week

Spend an evening with Groucho Marx, indulge in an Alpine themed dinner and more

MOLLY GIVEN
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.Looking for some fun and unique things to do in Philly this week? We've got you covered.

Alpine Dinner

Escape to the Alps this week during Le Virtù and Bistrot La Minette's delicious French-Italian Alpine themed dinner Feb. 28. Chef Damon Menapace of Le Virtù and Chef Kenneth Bush of Bistrot La Minette are joining forces to serve up the indulgent four-course meal with dishes including Antipasti, Tartiflette, Cavolo Ripieno and more. Each course is paired with a featured wine from the Alps, and a mouthwatering wild blueberry tart with Alpine herb pastry cream and blueberry sauce will cap off the delectable evening. *Feb. 28, reservations available, Le Virtù, 1927 Passyunk Ave., $85, levirtu.com*

Bloom Philly Festival

Gear up for the Flower Show this weekend by celebrating all week long with floral-filled events and activities. Philadelphians can create their own DIY succulent plants and floral crowns while sipping on specialty wines and cocktails at the Market & Shops at the Comcast Center on Feb. 26, and also discover the unique power of roses with representatives from the Flower Show at the Franklin Institute's Love and Lust event that same day. The best part? Federal Donuts will be offering their specialty Flower Power donuts at all six of their Philly locations until March 10. *Now- March 1, times vary, venues vary, theflowershow.com*

Black History Month Trivia Challenge

The Franklin Institute and Partnerships for Achieving Careers and Technology and Science (PACTS) are teaming up to host their 1st Annual Black History Trivia Challenge. The trivia challenge is a fundraiser dedicated to celebrating contributions from members of the African Diaspora to the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math and to raise funds for youth programming, initiatives and scholarships. Teams will receive the questions when they register, and the winning team will also win a trophy. The exciting five rounds of trivia are part of FI's community night where admission after 5 pm is free. *Feb. 25, 5 pm-8 pm, Franklin Institute, 222 N. 20th St., $25, fi.edu*

Producers Dinner

High Street on Market is adding another tasty installment to their Producer's Dinner series. This month's dinner will highlight Keepwell Vinegar of York, PA, White Rose Miso and Filipino inspired fair. The savory four-course extravaganza from Chef Farley and his team will take anyone's tastebuds on a delicious ride. This tempting culinary treat is just $45 a person and includes a beverage. *Feb. 27, reservations available, High Street on Market, 308 Market St., $45, highstreetonmarket.com*

An Evening with Groucho Marx

Head to the Walnut Street Theater this week to spend an evening with Groucho Marx, this special night will feature award-winning actor, director, and renowned Groucho Marx impersonator, Frank Ferrante. The 90-minute spectacle will put audiences right in the middle of all the action with Ferrante highlighting Groucho's famous one-liners, anecdotes and songs including "Hooray for Captain Spalding," and "Lydia, the Tattooed Lady." *Feb. 25, 8 pm, Walnut Street Theatre, 825 Walnut St., $25-$75, walnutstreettheatre.org*

EDUCATION

She fell for a common student loan scam. You don't have to.

NerdWallet is a personal finance website.

Facing more than $80,000 in student loan debt, Tiffany Tatafu did what thousands of other student loan borrowers do: She searched for answers on her phone.

The single mother of two had heard that as a public employee, she could be eligible for student loan forgiveness. She'd landed job as a student support coordinator at Arizona State University after earning a master's degree in education in 2017.

Tatafu called one of the first listings that came up in her search.

A representative at the company pushed her to sign up for its service, which cost $50 per month for three years on top of her normal student loan payments. They told her it was the only way she'd qualify for forgiveness, Tatafu recalls.

"They definitely made it sound like I had to go through them or I would not be in the program," Tatafu says. "So they lied."

'They wouldn't give me any answers'

Tatafu's experience is a textbook example of how third-party companies prey on vulnerable student loan borrowers.

"That is precisely the same pattern we have seen with countless other borrowers," says Danielle Tarantolo, an attorney at New York Legal Assistance Group.

So-called debt relief companies lure borrowers with exaggerated promises of forgiveness. At best, they charge fees to enroll borrowers in free federal loan programs like income-driven repayment plans. At worst, they take borrowers' money and do nothing to help.

In Tatafu's case, the debt relief company — called Student Relief Dept. — enrolled her in Pay As You Earn, a legitimate federal income-driven repayment plan that caps borrowers' monthly payments at 10% of their income and offers taxable forgiveness on the balance remaining after 20 years. (Student Relief Dept. did not respond to multiple requests for comment.) Borrowers who work for the government, a nonprofit or a public school, as Tatafu does, may be eligible for tax-free forgiveness after 10 years through Public Service Loan Forgiveness.

Based on her $45,000 annual income and family size of three, Tatafu's monthly payment was set at $120. For one year, she made those payments to the debt-relief company, plus an extra $50 for the company's monthly service fee.

After a year, the company notified Tatafu that it was time to recertify her income. The Department of Education requires that borrowers who are on income-driven plans submit proof of income annually.

After submitting Tatafu's paperwork, the company said her new monthly payment would be $0. Tatafu was confused. Her income hadn't changed, so why had her payment dropped?

But Tatafu had a feeling there'd been a mistake. After many calls to the debt relief company and her federal student loan servicer, she began piecing the story together.

What happened

It turns out that Tatafu didn't need the debt relief company's services in the first place.

Despite the company's pitch, signing up for federal repayment plans isn't impossibly difficult. Borrowers can submit the income-driven repayment paperwork to their federal student loan servicer on their own — for free.

To make matters worse, the debt relief company incorrectly reported Tatafu's income to her loan servicer during the recertification process, which led to her payment dropping to $0. On income-driven repayment, it's possible to have a legitimate $0 monthly payment if your income is low enough. That wasn't the case for Tatafu, who worried that a mistake could derail her path toward loan forgiveness.

A final wrinkle complicating Tatafu's situation: The debt relief company contracts out the handling of monthly payments. Even if she cancels the debt relief company's services, she still owes fees to the company handling the payments for the rest of her three-year contract or she risks damaging her credit. TEDDY NYKIEL

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GETTY

French Montana looks to give undocumented students a chance at the American Dream

The rapper has launched a new campaign called "We Are The Dream."

PAT KING
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Access to higher education has become increasingly difficult for undocumented immigrants under the Trump administration. Just last year, President Trump looked to rescind protections that were included in the Obama administration's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which helped around 800,000 undocumented immigrants pursue degrees at institutions of higher education.

While these protections are still being debated by Congress, Moroccan-born rapper French Montana is taking it upon himself to make sure that undocumented immigrants are aware of their options when it comes to earning a degree. By partnering with MTV and the Get Schooled scholarship program, Montana is leading the "We Are The Dream" campaign, which aims to be a one-stop resource for undocumented immigrants who are looking for scholarships or a list of sanctuary schools across the nation. The site will also be a place for students with similar backgrounds to share their stories and build a community.

"I was born in Morocco..I immigrated to the states when I was 13 years old," Montana said in a promotional video for the program."I was given an opportunity. I was given a chance. I was given a dream. I teamed up with Get Schooled and MTV to give awareness and provide the same resources to every other kid out there who is undocumented."

"We Are The Dream" aims to be much more than simply a database, as students will be able to text "college" to 335577 to speak with a real-life counselor with the program who will be able to assist them during this process in such an uncertain time. Get Schooled is offering a small number of $1,000 scholarships as well to schools and other organizations that offer support to undocumented students. The cutoff date to apply for the scholarship is Thursday, Feb. 28, and those who are interested can fill out an application at WeAreTheDream.us.

Having immigrated to the U.S. himself, the issue is obviously a personal one for Montana, who doesn't want to see undocumented students cut off from the American Dream.

"I am one of tens of thousands of first- and second-generation immigrants that are having a significant positive impact on the United States," the rapper told Rolling Stone earlier this month. "I am excited to lead others in this fight to ensure Dreamers connect with the support they need to get to college and make their American Dream come true."

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INTEGREVIEW

SPORTS

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Three players to watch out for at the 2019 NFL Combine

The Philadelphia Eagles will be looking at a variety of players during the combine who can step right in and fill their various needs.

LUKE MILLER
sports@metro.us

The Philadelphia Eagles enter the 2019 NFL draft process a little more stocked with picks than they have been in recent years. They're done paying for the move up to select Carson Wentz and have an additional second-round pick from the Ravens, who moved up into the first round to get Lamar Jackson.

Their third-round selection was already spent on Golden Tate, but with three picks between 25 and 57, the Eagles have the draft capital to be very active on the first two days of the 2019 Draft.

The 2019 NFL Combine kicks off on Tuesday, and we have a brief preview of some players who could both light it up in Indianapolis and be around when the Eagles start walking to the podium in April.

GARRETT BRADBURY, C, NC STATE

The Eagles' offensive line is still a strength of the team, but there needs to be a plan for the future. This is especially true at the left tackle position. While Jason Peters played in all 18 games of 2018, he dealt with injuries constantly and anyone who watched Jadeveon Clowney attack Nick Foles in his absence against the Houston Texans will want this position solidified.

But the interior offensive line isn't free from question marks, either, following a report about Jason Kelce contemplating retirement and Brandon Brooks suffering a torn Achilles in the team's playoff loss to the Saints.

While most of the top tackle prospects should be off the board by the time the Eagles pick in the first round, the volatility where teams evaluate guards and centers could leave Bradbury in the Eagles' lap. He won the Rimington Award as the nation's best center in 2018, leading a Wolfpack offense that averaged 35 points and 470 yards per game.

The zone blocking scheme NC State employs should make for an easy transition to the Eagles' rushing offense, as Bradbury has the physical tools to star in such an offense. Those should be on display at the combine.

NASIR ADDERLEY, S, DELAWARE

There have been few predictions more fun to contemplate year in and year out in which the Eagles finally draft Brian Dawkins' successor. In reality, they found that successor in Malcolm Jenkins. But outside of Jenkins, the safeties in Philadelphia are one big question mark.

Rodney McLeod will be returning from knee surgery and playing on a newly restructured contract. Avonte Maddox filled in at times during 2018 but ended the season where he was drafted to play: at cornerback.

Enter Adderley, a local prospect who had 11 career interceptions at the University of Delaware. His range in the secondary is drawing tentative comparisons to Earl Thomas, and Adderley can double down on his impressive game speed with an equally impressive combine.

Worries about the level of opposition he faced at the FCS level have been offset by an impressive Senior Bowl, where, believe it or not, he met with the Eagles.

MECOLE HARDMAN, WR, GEORGIA

The Eagles have talent at wide receiver, but they could use a deep threat that runs away from defenders while Alshon Jeffery is busy climbing over them. Marquise Brown missing the combine will give the other receivers a chance to showcase their electrifying speed and Hardman should clock in as one of the fastest.

It's already easy to tell Hardman is a special talent with the ball in his hands, but he came late to playing receiver so should have plenty of room to grow. When you consider his talent as a returner — he averaged 20.1 yards on 16 punt returns in 2018 — and lack of star-level production in college (543 receiving yards this season), the obvious comparison becomes Tyreek Hill.

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Will sports betting legalization kill Vegas?

Sin City used to be the only show in town.

MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.

GETTY IMAGES

One would think that Las Vegas bookmakers are quivering in their boots these days with so many states across the country legalizing sports betting. Instead, it seems like sports betting going mainstream is having a "rising tide lifts all boats" scenario in the U.S.

Nevada boasts 191 sportsbooks and the state hauled in a record $301 million from a record $5 billion wagering handle in 2018, according to the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

"The expansion hasn't hurt us," Caesars Entertainment sportsbook director Bill Sattler told the Review-Journal. "There's more buzz about sports betting here in Nevada. Most of it has to do with mobile [apps] and in-game play. In-game play has become much more popular. Everybody's got on board with that."

Sattler added that he believes all of the parity in the NFL helped the books in Vegas this past season.

Still, New Jersey Division of Gaming Entertainment Director David Rebuck told Bloomberg last year that he predicts that the Garden State will surpass Nevada in sports betting handle by 2020. That statement was a bit aggressive, but Rebuck might not be too far off.

In January, New Jersey sportsbooks posted a $385 million handle. That was a record month for the state.

January is typically the healthiest month of the year when it comes to sports betting as there is the college football National Championship Game and three rounds of the NFL playoffs. But New Jersey's numbers are still mighty impressive. In January of 2018, Nevada posted a $419 million handle — just $34 million more than infant sports betting state New Jersey did in the same month.

The main reason New Jersey has been able to post these gaudy numbers so quickly is that the state is on the cutting edge of the mobile sports betting game. Fantasy sports companies-turned-sports betting behemoths DraftKings and FanDuel are dominating in New Jersey while the brunt of wagering in Vegas is still done at the physical casino.

This is certainly something for Pennsylvania to monitor as things get off the ground.

TWEET OF THE DAY

Cousin Sal
@TheCousinSal

BREAKING: Robert Kraft found not guilty as a result of the NFL's new Tug Rule.

Sports betting 101: What is a point spread?

VSiN

The point spread is another form of betting odds that's very similar to a moneyline bet. The difference is that in addition to predicting who will win the game, the point spread includes a margin of victory. In certain cases — such as in college basketball and college football — there is a huge discrepancy in talent between the two teams playing. In those cases, betting the moneyline is too obvious because it is clear that one team will beat the other. That's when the point spread comes into play, as the oddsmakers will set a line where there is a margin of victory.

* For example, imagine that two teams, the Knicks and 76ers, are facing each other. The Knicks may have odds of +11.5 while the Sixers' odds are -11.5. In this case, the Sixers are favored to win. Just like in the moneyline bet, the negative sign before the number indicates who is expected to win. The number represents the expected margin of victory. If you bet on the Sixers, you need them to win by more than 11.5 points for you to cover your bet. That means they need to win the game by 12 points or more. If you bet the Knicks, that means they can lose by 11 points or less, or win the game, and you still win your bet. It's a way of evening the playing field, even if one team is highly favored to win over the other.

* If, during the actual game, the margin of victory lands exactly on the spread, it is called a push or a tie, and no one wins the bet.

* Point spreads will also have moneyline odds attached. Just like in a moneyline bet, this number indicates what the payout will be in the case of a win. For example, the spread and odds for the Sixers might be (-11.5, -120). This means that the Sixers are favored to win by more than 11.5 points. If you were to make this bet and the Sixers did win by 23 points or more, and you bet $120 on the game, then you would win $100.

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Will the Eagles steal some Steelers?

The Birds could certainly use Le'Veon Bell and Antonio Brown.

MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.

For the Eagles to get their offense back on track in 2019, they will need to surround quarterback Carson Wentz with top-of-the-line weapons. The Eagles ranked 18th in NFL scoring in 2018, a far cry from ranking third in their 2017 Super Bowl year, and there's no doubt the offense could use a jolt of new energy.

One way to get back to elite status would be to land either Le'Veon Bell or Antonio Brown in the next month. Bell advanced Eagles rumors on Saturday afternoon when he responded to this subtweet from someone with the handle @riaaaa:

"If the Eagles get Le'Veon I will lose my [expletive]."

Bell responded with "hmmm," accompanied by a thinking face emoji. Yup, in 2019 this qualifies as legit NFL news.

The problem here is that Bell is looking for $50 million in the first two years of his next deal. The Eagles simply can't dish out that type of coin right now as they are just $1.9 million under the cap.

Nonetheless, here are the odds on where Bell will be playing football in 2019.

Le'Veon Bell odds
Colts +310
Jets +320
Raiders +580
Lions +620
Dolphins +710
Ravens +910
Eagles +985
Chiefs +1500
Field (any other team): +350

As for Brown, who is still regarded as one of the top two or three best receivers in the game at age 30, his path to Philadelphia is even more difficult. The Steelers still hold his rights and will trade him — unlike Bell, who is a free agent.

While Steelers GM Kevin Colbert has maintained that his preference is to trade Brown to an NFC team, Pittsburgh would surely have some reservations about dealing him in-state.

There is also that pesky salary cap issue again, though Sports Illustrated's Andy Benoit pointed out last week that if Brown is willing to take a new contract from his new team, then all "31 other teams" would be in play for Brown's services.

Benoit also listed the Eagles as one of the teams that Brown would be most appealing to due to their two- and three-receiver route combination schemes.

Here are the current odds for where Brown will play ball next season.

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Antonio Brown odds
49ers +400
Cardinals +450
Dolphins +550
Saints +650
Packers +700
Colts +700
Lions +800
Raiders +900
Jets +1000
Eagles +1200
Field: +450

Sports on TV Highlights

8:00 pm	**NBA Basketball** Philadelphia 76ers vs. New Orleans Pelicans	Sports Philadelphia
7:00 pm	**Men's CBB** Notre Dame Fighting Irish vs. Florida State Seminoles	ESPN
7:30 pm	**NHL Hockey** Los Angeles Kings vs. Tampa Bay Lightning	NBCSN
8:00 pm	**Men's CBB** Oklahoma Sooners vs. Iowa State Cyclones	ESPN 2
9:00 pm	**Men's CBB** Kansas State Wildcats vs. Kansas Jayhawks	ESPN
10:00 pm	**NBA Basketball** Dallas Mavericks vs. Los Angeles Clippers	NBA TV

Sixers vs. Pelicans betting preview

The New Orleans Pelicans (27-34) and a rested Anthony Davis appear poised to take advantage of a Joel Embiid-less Philadelphia 76ers (38-22) squad at the Smoothie King Center on Monday night.

Embiid (27.3 points per game) is currently dealing with left knee soreness and probably won't play again for at least a week. His presence down low is vital to Philadelphia, as he averages 13.5 rebounds per contest. Embiid has helped get the Sixers to fourth in season rebound differential at plus-214.

New Orleans is not lacking for size with Davis and center Julius Randle collecting 12.8 and 8.9 rebounds per night, respectively. That's why the Pelicans are ninth in rebound differential at plus-140.

The Sixers' defense has suffered in the two games Embiid has missed so far, allowing opponents to shoot 48.5 percent from the floor. Their season average is 45.4. That spells trouble against the hot-shooting Jrue Holiday, who is averaging 24.3 points per game over his last three contests.

There are some trends working against Philly,

GETTY IMAGES

too. The Sixers are 2-5 against the spread in their last seven games against teams with losing records and just 5-13 against the spread in their last 18 road games playing teams with a home win percentage of .600 or better.

The play: Pelicans spread

ROBERT CRISCOLA

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Phillies could nab Harper soon

Last season with the Nationals, the 26-year-old Harper batted .249 with 34 home runs and 100 RBIs.

JOVAN ALFORD
jovan.alford@metro.us

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After weeks of speculation, rumors and cryptic social media posts, it appears as if the Bryce Harper sweepstakes is coming to an end. ESPN's Buster Olney reported on Sunday that negotiations between Harper and the Philadelphia Phillies could be finalized by Tuesday.

He also added that the Phillies remain confident that they are going to sign the 26-year-old superstar outfielder, but are nearing a crossroads in their negotiations.

This latest news from Olney comes on the heels of USA TODAY's Bob Nightengale reporting on Saturday night that the optimism now is Harper's 10-year deal with the club will be finalized by Monday afternoon.

Jim Salisbury of NBC Sports Philadelphia reported on Friday that Phillies managing partner Jon Middletown flew out to Las Vegas, Harper's hometown, to meet with his camp.

The two sides have talked a couple of times over the offseason, starting at the Winter Meetings back in December.

Last season with the Nationals, Harper slashed .249/.393/.496 with 34 home runs and 100 RBIs. But in 50 games at Citizens Bank Park, the 26-year-old is slashing .268/.365/.564 with 14 home runs and 32 RBIs.

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- Must provide OIC with **three written references** at orientation (non-family members)
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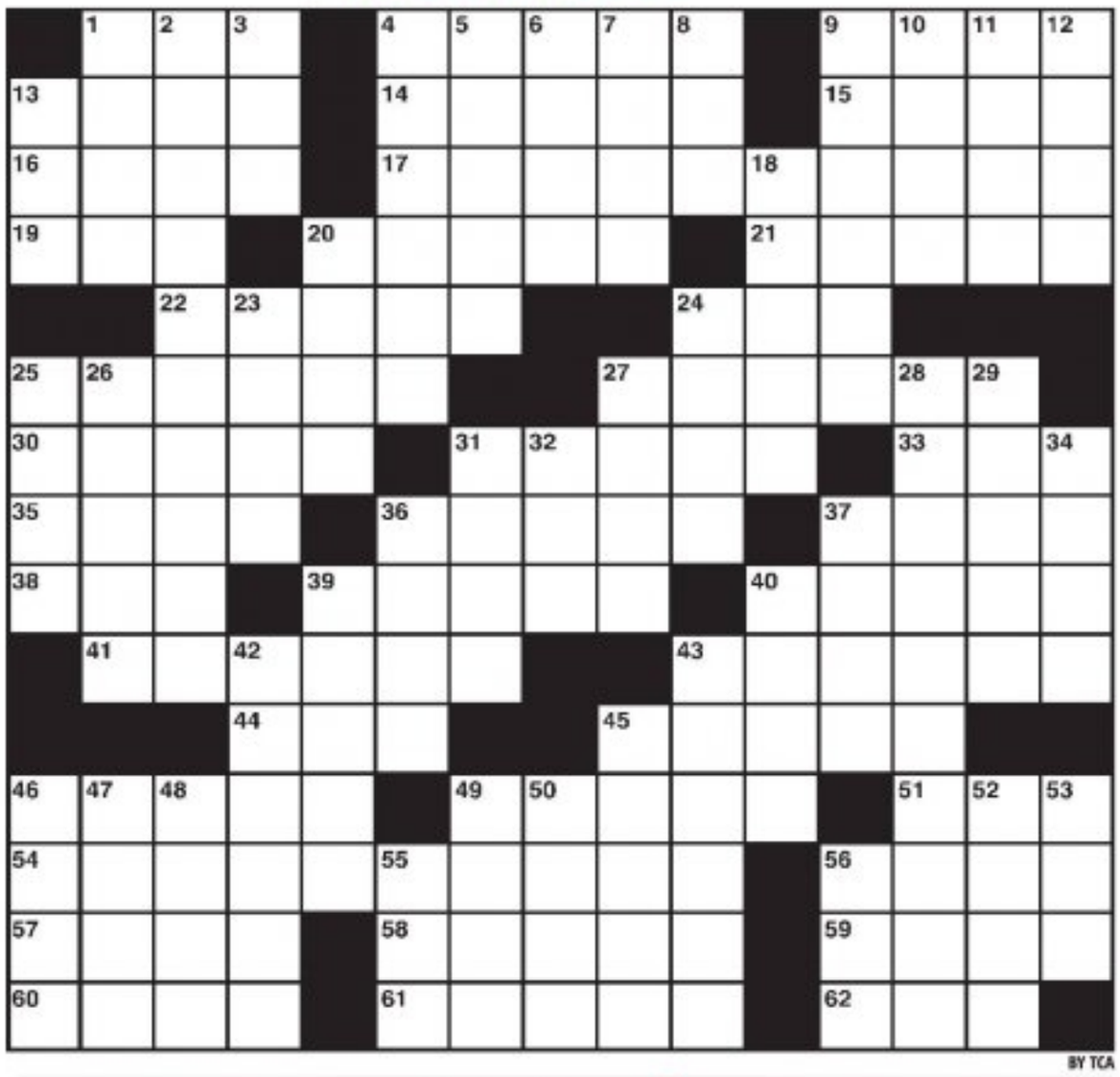

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ACROSS

1 "Cat __ Hot Tin Roof"
4 Idaho exports
9 __ down; decelerate
13 Ran fast
14 Asian capital city
15 Residence
16 Beer barrels
17 Still faulty
19 __ nutshell; briefly
20 Jobs or Harvey
21 Kilns
22 Anklebone
24 Signal to an actor
25 Make a mistake
27 Team defeats
30 Crowbar
31 Tranquillity
33 Kook
35 Gung ho
36 Public square
37 Recipe verb
38 Affirmative
39 "Mine eyes have seen the __..."
40 Author Jules __
41 Give a job to
43 Go back on a promise
44 Decay
45 Black-and-white mammal
46 Chocolaty pod
49 Liquid
51 Strike lightly
54 Honest
56 Exhale audibly
57 Navy or indigo
58 Get up
59 Pay attention to
60 Collections
61 Venomous viper
62 Suffix for govern or giant

DOWN

1 Daytime shop window sign
2 Cynic's attitude
3 Promos
4 "Be quiet!" (less politely)
5 Window pieces
6 TCU or UCLA
7 Capitol roof
8 Drink slowly
9 Pushes roughly
10 "All You Need Is __"; Beatles hit
11 Foreboding sign
12 Gives up the single life
13 Enjoy a winter sport
18 Waken
20 Insulting remark
23 Ridiculed
24 __-Cola
25 Murder
26 Embankment
27 Sluggish
28 Pleas
29 Taking to court
31 Stratagem
32 In one __ and out the other
34 Hickory or hemlock
36 Story line
37 __ away; dismiss
39 Sphere of the world
40 Sell on the street
42 Shows to be true
43 Oakland athlete
45 Handbag
46 Taxis
47 Suffix for break or profit
48 Defeat decisively
49 20th-century U.S. president
50 __ down; deposited
52 Matures
53 Prof's degree
55 Pasture cry
56 "Murder, __ Wrote"

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- Lactose Intolerance
- Liver Disease
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